

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 12, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. YULEE made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 81.]

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of the forward officers of the late exploring expedition, adopt the report made by same committee at the last session of the Senate, (which they ask may be printed and made a part of this report,) and recommend the passage of the bill accompanying this report, for the relief of the memorialists:*

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.—February 24, 1846.

Mr. FAIRFIELD made the following report:

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of forward officers of the late exploring expedition, ask leave to submit the following report:*

That the forward officers, to wit: gunners, boatswains, carpenters, and sail-makers, of the late exploring expedition, being eleven in number, in their memorial represent that they were ordered to the different vessels of said expedition, joined the same, and sailed from Norfolk on the 18th day of August, 1838, "with the full understanding and expectation that they were to be allowed sufficient extra compensation to enable them to incur the expense of the large outfit and expenditure which they were compelled to incur to enable them to prepare for the different climates they had to visit, and to support themselves on board ship, on an expensive cruise, and their families on shore.

They further represent that, on the first day of September, 1838, while on said cruise, the following order was issued by Commander Wilkes, to wit:

"The forward officers of this ship having applied to me for extra pay while engaged in the exploring expedition, and in consideration of their having arduous duty to perform not strictly in the line of their particular duties, also of their being required to keep a regu-

lar watch on the fore-castle, and having incurred extra expenses preparing for the various climates to which they may be exposed during the cruise, the purser of this ship will credit the carpenter, boatswain, gunner, and sail-maker, or those duly appointed to act as such, and performing all duties that may be required, extra pay, at the rate of \$250 per annum, being the sum allowed to them on board seventy-fours; subject, however, to the approval of the Navy Department, or until revoked by my order.

“CHARLES WILKES,

“*Commanding Exploring Expedition.*”

They state further that, in pursuance of this order, they were credited on the rolls and books of the several vessels to which they were attached, the extra pay referred to, which was paid to them from time to time, as required for their necessary expenses; but that, after their return from said expedition, on a settlement of their accounts, the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury refused to allow said extra pay without authority from Congress for that purpose, whereby they have been subjected to great inconvenience and trouble.

The material facts in the foregoing are fully substantiated by communications from A. O. Dayton, esq., Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, and Commander Wilkes, the latter of whom adds: “I view this case as a particularly hard one, not only from the fact that they are the only officers (except myself) who have been refused extra pay, but that, throughout the whole cruise, they performed their duties and suffered the privations and fatigues willingly, and with a spirit that claimed the admiration of all; and I feel it my duty to recommend them as highly deserving of the compensation they have petitioned for.”

Deeming the case a proper one for relief, the committee herewith report a bill for that purpose.